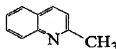


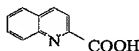
Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.PC10888A

Amendments to the Claims:

- 10 1. (Currently Amended) A process for the microbial oxidation of the compound of Formula II



to the compound of Formula I



- 15 which comprises:

contacting said compound of Formula II with a microorganism capable of accomplishing the oxidation of the methyl group of the compound of Formula II to the carboxyl group of the compound of Formula I, and

- 20 incubating the resultant mixture under suitable conditions to yield an amount of the compound of Formula I.

2. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 1 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9244, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8688a, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 26269, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8983, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 10028b, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9245, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 36112, *Cunninghamella homothallica* ATCC No. 16161, *Alternaria solani* ATCC No. 11078, *Penicillium glabrum* ATCC No. 11080, *Diplodia gossypina* ATCC No. 20575, *Absidia repens* ATCC No. 14849, *Absidia repens* ATCC No. 74481, *Aspergillus tamarit* ATCC No. 16865, and *Glomerella lagenaria* ATCC No. 14724; and suitable mutants thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 2 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9244, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8688a, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 26269, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8983, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 10028b, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9245, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 36112, *Cunninghamella homothallica* ATCC No. 16161, *Alternaria solani* ATCC No. 11078, *Penicillium glabrum* ATCC No. 11080, and *Diplodia gossypina* ATCC No. 20575; and suitable mutants thereof.

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4.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The process as defined in claim 1 wherein said microorganism is an intact microorganism, and further comprising isolating said compound of Formula I by extraction of said mixture with an organic solvent, and subjecting said extraction to chromatography.

20.-24. (Cancelled)